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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/01824 (22) International Filing Date: 9 June 1999 (09.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 9812523.0 10 June 1998 (10.06.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P AN- GELETTI S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Pontina Km 30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MATASSA, Victor [GB/IT]; Via Paporamica, 44, I-00049 Velletri (IT). NARJES, Frank [DE/IT]; Via Pietro Nenni, 32, I-00040 Pomezia (IT). KOEHLER, Konrad [US/SE]; Visättravägen 27, S-141 50 Huddinge (SE). ONTORIA, Jean [ES/IT]; C/Deserto di Gobi, 65, I-00144 Roma (IT). POMA, Marco [IT/IT]; Via Collina del Valle, I-58019 Grosseto (IT). ✓ MARCHETTI, Antonella [IT/IT]; Via Pietro Nenni, 4c, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).</p>	<p>(74) Agents: NICHOLLS, Kathryn, M. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6HP (GB). (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.</p>	
<p>(54) Title: PEPTIDE INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3 PROTEASE (57) Abstract Fluorinated oligopeptides, especially those having 4,4-difluoro-2-amino butyric acid at the C terminus, may be effective inhibitors of hepatitis C virus NS3 protease. Examples of hexapeptides of the invention, optimised for binding in the S1 specificity pocket of the enzyme, may display IC₅₀s at the sub-micromolar level. Embodiments of tripeptides of the invention, having a keto-acid group at the C-terminus are, likewise, potent inhibitors of NS3 protease.</p>		